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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 24 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 May 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 23 May 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 29 April 1996 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/50/949-S/1996/331 dated 2 May 1996).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations were rejected in toto in my successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 6 May 1996 (A/50/955-S/1996/348, annex, of 13 May 1996). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no more credible or valid than those previously made, I merely wish to reiterate that flights within the airspace of northern Cyprus are with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot usurpers of the seat of government have no jurisdiction or right of say.

The reason behind the Greek Cypriot side's endless barrage of allegations regarding this or similar other subjects is clearly to cover up its intensive militarization campaign in the south, as part of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece. It is noteworthy that, in the context of the said scheme, the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece have recently carried out joint military exercises code-named "Toxotis" (Bow), held in and around south Cyprus. A-7 and F-16 warplanes and frigates from the Greek air and naval forces, in addition to the Greek Cypriot National Guard, took part in these exercises.

The following statement made by Lt. Colonel Venetis of the Greek Air Force, who participated in these exercises, encapsulates the provocative and aggressive posture of the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front. The statement appeared in the Greek Cypriot press on 12 May 1996:

> "For us each and every corner of Cyprus is like the corner of our Aegean, our Thrace. The Greek Air Force personnel consider the airspace of Cyprus as an extension of the Greek airspace. We are in a position to reach within the shortest period of time any spot and whichever target we want on the territory, sea and skies of the Great Island" (meaning Cyprus).

Furthermore, it was also reported in the Greek Cypriot press of 9 May 1996, on the eve of the said joint manoeuvres, that within the context of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", Greece had decided to grant the Greek Cypriot administration 50 more tanks. Subsequently, the Greek Cypriot daily newspaper Simerini of 16 May 1996 reported that, together with the acquisition of 50 AMX-30B2 and 50 I80Y tanks, new personnel would also be enlisted in the Greek Cypriot National Guard. According to the paper, at least 1,000 additional professional soldiers were soon to join the Greek Cypriot National Guard for a duration of five years.

This military build-up on the Greek Cypriot side, coupled with belligerent statements emanating from Greece and south Cyprus, leaves no room for doubt that the ultimate aim of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" is to seek a military solution to the Cyprus question.

In view of the foregoing, I trust that the international community will do everything it can to persuade the Greek Cypriot side not to continue on this dangerous path and to join the Turkish Cypriot side at the table in the search for a peaceful solution to the Cyprus question through dialogue and negotiation.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus